

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 31-54 and 55-60 are pending in the present application, Claims 31-54 and 55-60 having been amended, and Claims 1-30 and 55 having been canceled, all without introducing new matter. See, for example page 4, line 7-page 5, line 25, and the explanation of terms at pages 6-7 of the specification.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 31, 33-37, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,365, hereinafter Tang); Claims 47, 48, 50, and 54-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by England (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,991); Claims 32, 38-43, and 46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tang in view of England; Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Tang in view of Kakuta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,714,965, hereinafter Kakuta); and Claims 49 and 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over England in view of Tang.

Claims 31-54 and 56-60 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claims the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention. Support for the amendments to Claims 31-54 and 56-60 is found, for example, in the specification as noted above. In addition, a new Abstract is provided. No new matter is added.

Amended Claim 31 is directed toward a system for communicating over an open network. A first terminal is configured to access a first information site and to acquire a client program from a management unit. The client program reads an internet address of the first information site in a web crawler of the first terminal. The client program sends a message to the management unit. The message includes the internet address of the first information site. The management unit is configured to access a database and determine

what world is associated with the internet address of the first information site. The first terminal is further configured to communicate with another terminal accessing a related information site. The related information site is part of the same world as the first information site. Related information sites include identical information sites, information sites that are stored in the same place, information sites that have a same speciality, and information sites that have a same publisher.

Non-limiting embodiments of the claimed invention allow a person who visits a web page to find other persons who are visiting the same or related web pages. The non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention allows people to meet in the virtual world without needing a specific forum, such as a chat room.¹

With respect to the rejection of Claim 31 as anticipated by Tang, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to Claim 31 overcomes the outstanding rejection. Tang does not describe or suggest every element of amended Claim 31.

Tang describes a chat room where the chat room participants see graphical representations of other participants. The participants can share files between each other. In the system described by Tang, there is one chat room that participants belong to. Tang does not describe or suggest the claimed “management unit configured to access a database and determine what world is associated with the internet address of the first information site.” Since the system described by Tang only includes one chat room there is no need to determine what world is associated with the internet address of the first information site.

Furthermore, Tang does not describe or suggest a first terminal configured to acquire a client program from a management unit. In a non-limiting embodiment of the claimed invention, the client program can be retrieved via the internet. Thus, no adaptation or pre-

¹ Specification, page 4, lines 7-13.

installation is required at the user's computer.² The system described in Tang presupposes pre-installation of the user interface on a worker's computer.³

Furthermore, because Tang does not describe a first terminal configured to acquire a client program from a management unit, Tang does not describe or suggest the claimed "client program reads an internet address of the first information site in a web crawler of said first terminal."

Furthermore, Tang does not describe the claimed "client program sends a message to said management unit, said message includes the internet address of the first information site" for at least the reasons stated above.

Applicants respectfully submit that England does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Tang. England describes a software system that allows a guide to interact with a client in real time. The client uses a pre-installed standard browser and the guide accesses a special purpose browser.⁴ England does not describe or suggest a first terminal configured to acquire a client program from a management unit.

England describes downloading client side component 904. However, client side component 904 does not describe or suggest the claimed "client program." Client side component 904 parses parameters HostName and SessionName and contacts piper server 502 to ask to join a named session.⁵ England does not describe or suggest the claimed "said client program reads an internet address of the first information site in a web crawler of said first terminal; said client program sends a message to said management unit, said message includes the internet address of the first information site."

² Specification, page 10, lines 21-23.

³ See, Tang col. 3, lines 31-39.

⁴ England, col. 13, lines 7-10.

⁵ England, col. 17, lines 29-35.

Furthermore, England describes that communications between the client and the guide start through a predetermine portal referred to as a Hamelin start page 702.⁶ Since communications always start at the Hamelin start page,⁷ there is no need to determine if the client and the guide are viewing an information sites that are in the same world.

The system described by England includes piper server 502, which is an intermediary between the guide system and the client system.⁸ The piper server initiates instructions to load framesets, frame layouts, and/or frame contents such as web pages, collaborative tools and/or internet resources. Piper server does not determine if the client and guide are viewing information sites that are in the same world.

Thus, the system described in England does not describe or suggest at least the claimed “said management unit is configured to access a database and determine what world is associated with the internet address of the first information site.”

Kakuta does not cure the above-noted deficiencies in Tang and England. The system described by Kakuta includes server 4 which includes a user database.⁹ However, server 4 does not determine if users are accessing related information sites in the same world. Thus, Kakuta does not describe or suggest at least “said management unit is configured to access a database and determine what world is associated with the internet address of the first information site; said first terminal is further configured to communicate with another terminal accessing a related information site, wherein said related information site is part of a same world as the first information site.”

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 31-54 and 56-60 patentably distinguish over Tang, England, and Kakuta, taken alone or in proper combination.

⁶ England, col. 12, 11-14.

⁷ England, col. 12, lines 6-11.

⁸ England, col. 26, lines 20-21.

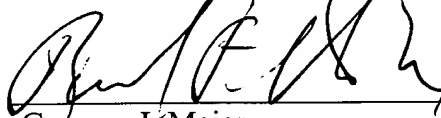
⁹ Takuta, col. 8, lines 19-21.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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